

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please amend the first three paragraphs (CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS section) on page 1, as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

~~This application is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/731,771 filed December 5, 2003, titled IONICALLY CONDUCTIVE COMPOSITES FOR PROTECTION OF ACTIVE METAL ANODES, which is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/686,189 filed October 14, 2003, titled IONICALLY CONDUCTIVE COMPOSITES FOR PROTECTION OF ACTIVE METAL ANODES, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/418,899 filed October 15, 2002, titled IONICALLY CONDUCTIVE COMPOSITES FOR PROTECTION OF ANODES AND ELECTROLYTES.~~

This application also claims priority to U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/511,710 filed October 14, 2003, titled IONICALLY CONDUCTIVE COMPOSITES FOR PROTECTION OF ACTIVE METAL ELECTRODES IN CORROSIVE ENVIRONMENTS; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/518,948 filed November 10, 2003, titled BI-FUNCTINALLY COMPATIBLE IONICALLY COMPOSITES FOR ISOLATION OF ACTIVE METAL ELECTRODES IN A VARIETY OF ELECTROCHEMICAL CELLS AND SYSTEMS; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/527,098 filed December 3, 2003, titled ACTIVE METAL/METAL HYDRIDE BATTERY CELL; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/536,688 filed January 14, 2004, titled ACTIVE METAL/WATER BATTERY CELLS; U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/526,662 filed December 2, 2003, titled ACTIVE METAL/AIR BATTERY CELL; and U.S. Provisional Patent Application No. 60/536,689 filed January 14, 2004, titled PROTECTED ACTIVE METAL ELECTRODES FOR USE IN ACTIVE METAL/AQUEOUS ELECTROLYTE BATTERY CELLS.

The benefit of each of these prior applications is claimed, and each ~~Each~~ of these prior applications is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety and for all purposes.